

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS YEREVAN 000986

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EUR/CACEN, G/TIP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KCRM](#) [KWMN](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [SMIG](#) [AM](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED, ARMENIA ON TIP TIER 2
WATCH LIST

REFS: A: STATE 97700 B: STATE 102469

1. (U) Sensitive but Unclassified. Please treat accordingly.

SUMMARY

2. (SBU) On June 3, CDA delivered talking points per reftel to Deputy Foreign Minister Armen Baibourtian and Valery Mkrtumyan, head of Armenia's interagency Anti-TIP Commission. CDA informed Baibourtian and Mkrtumyan that Armenia has been downgraded from Tier 2 to Tier 2 Watch List because of its failure to increase anti-trafficking efforts. Mkrtumyan said the National Action Committee met recently and conceded more progress needs to be made.
End Summary.

3. (SBU) On June 3, CDA delivered talking points per reftel to GOAM Deputy Foreign Minister Armen Baibourtian and Valery Mkrtumyan, Head of Armenia's interagency Anti-Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Commission. CDA stressed the importance the USG places on trafficking reduction. He informed Baibourtian and Mkrtumyan that Armenia has been downgraded from Tier 2 to Tier 2 Watch List because of the GOAM's failure to increase anti-trafficking efforts. CDA urged the GOAM to do more to disseminate and implement Armenia's National Action Plan and expressed the USG's concern over reports of GOAM officials who have been complicit in human trafficking. He explained the downgrade means the Embassy and Department will be required to publish an interim report, and that the USG will be looking for significant progress to avoid slippage into Tier 3.

4. (SBU) Mkrtumyan said the National Action Committee had met recently and conceded more progress needs to be made. Mkrtumyan asserted that Armenia is no longer a transit country for trafficking in persons. Mkrtumyan also said the decision about whether to apply pimping charges or the more stringent trafficking charges in trafficking cases has been left to the discretion of the judges, who consistently have applied the more lenient statute. Baibourtian said several members of the inter-agency committee, including the head of the ministry's consular department, went to the United Arab Emirates for a week to learn about the women who had been trafficked there. (Note: The trip was organized by IOM with funding from INL. End note.)

5. (SBU) Mkrtumyan agreed the USG decision to downgrade Armenia to the watch list could prompt GOAM officials to increased action. CDA encouraged the GOAM to use the tools at its disposal, such as its sound National Action Plan, to increase anti-trafficking efforts.

6. (SBU) As of June 6, news of the TIP report had not yet made the Armenian press, but this should soon change. On June 7, center-right print daily AZG will publish U/S Dobriansky's op-ed (ref b).
EVANS